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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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Aircraft Production at Avia, Letnany

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- 1. Representatives of the Czech Airforce attached to the Avia aircraft plant at Letnany include Major (fnu) Stross, about 40 years old, and Staff Captain (fnu) Sedlacek, in charge of the military unit permanently assigned to the plant. Sedlacek lives in Vysocany.
- Construction plans for the Stormovik plane were supplied by the Soviets. Some of the plans had to be adjusted to fit local conditions. One known change is that additional carburetors have been added to the engine; there are now a total of four. The Soviets supplied 60 propellers for the first series of aircraft, but propellers are now being produced locally.
- 3. One of the new Soviet technicians is named (fnu) Jerasim or Gerasim.
- 4. The steel plating which protects the engine sides, produced by an unidentified steel mill in Moravske Budejovice, is composed as follows:

C

Mn

S

0.28-0.34

0.8-1.1

0.8-1.2

 \mathtt{Cr}

Mi

MO

1.6-2.0

OCR (sic)

0.15-0.25

P

S (sic)

0.03

0.03

The resistance of the plate is said to be 160 kilograms per square meter. Due to poor quality, however, it is estimated to be actually only 150 kilograms.

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- 5. Metal material used is tested in a laboratory where the X-ray (sie) method is used. The X-ray equipment is of German make and is obsolete.
- 6. The 1,200-horsepower engines are tested for five hours on the mechanical brake. The runways at Rudy Letov airfield, where completed aircraft are tested, are more suitable for testing surposes. One test pilot stated that he had stopped counting the number of test flights that he made.
- 7. In Movember 1952 a shipment of about 30,000 standardized locks made by the LET Mational Corporation in Kunovice was returned because of poor quality. The price of an individual lock is about 45 crowns.
- There are about 8,000 workers at the plant; about 2,500 of them are female. There are two shifts which work twelve hours each; in some shops, however, the eight-hour shift is still being used. The minimum pay for unskilled workers is 35 crowns per hour for men, 25 for women. The factory management is attempting to introduce the so-called "Russian norm" system of labor; the minimum wage would thereby be lowered to between 18 and 22 crowns an hour. The change is being resisted by the workers. Employees work only on one certain job on each aircraft and are not permitted free access to other parts of the factory. The chairman of the Employees' Committee is (fun) Swatos, an ardent Communist about 35 years old.

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9.	<u> Accidents</u>	of	Army	planes	are	reported	to	an	unknown	office	

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10. The announcement of the victory of General Risenhower was greeted by increased absenteeism at the Avia plant. It is reported that many workers arrived for work intoxicated and that many substituted a bottle of beer for their usual lunch-time sandwich.

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